DEALING WITH BARRIERS TO GODLY LEADERSHIP
A Quick Questionnaire

The Bible teaching on residential 2 will be on the theme of 'Dealing with barriers to godly leadership.' We will explore things that are likely to trip us up as leaders, and we are aware that some of these things are the same for every generation whilst some change from generation to generation. However we want to tailor the teaching to each Arrow programme that takes place.

Many of the issues are also issues of discipleship, but we want to look at them with a particular focus on the leadership elements.

So in order to help us identify which issues to address, please would you rate the issues below in numerical order, with number one being your top issue and nine being your lowest priority.

- **Pride** Leads to competition, comparison and an unhelpful and distorted view of our own importance as a leader.
- **Fear** Leaders regularly have to make courageous decisions, confront difficult people, handle complex situations, all of which may be avoided because of fear.
- **Anger** Many leaders repress their anger because they feel it is unacceptable in a Christian leader, they are frightened by its intensity or they don't know how to deal with it. Yet the anger continues to simmer, or even boil, just below the surface.
- **Sexual pressures** Leaders often work closely in intense environments with people of the opposite gender, which can lead to particular pressures. Sometimes leaders are at the mercy of the projection of others' needs, fantasies and frustrations which can lead to unwanted advances. Leaders may experience bullying behaviour related to their gender and some leaders may live a double life with addiction to porn or inappropriate sexual behaviour eroding their integrity. Some may have experienced abusive sexual behaviour.
- **Discouragement** Godly ambition means leaders long to see God's kingdom extended, to make a difference, but the reality may not meet early hopes and dreams. Unfulfilled expectations of those we lead, colleagues, those over us and even of God can lead to a gnawing sense of discouragement.
- **Power** Leadership involves power; power is subtle and nuanced, both addictive and corrosive. An inability to accept the view of others, a lack of self-awareness, a victim mentality can all be symptoms of inappropriate engagement with power.
- **Entitlement** The growing sense that as a leader we have given up so much (potential salary, only having one day off a week, working evenings and so on) that we are entitled to a few things. Often these things are harmful to us.
- **Money** Those in Christian leadership often don't have a lot of money, and it is easy for resentment to build. It can lead to juggling tricky financial situations, questions about our own giving, frightening levels of debt, and a gnawing sense of 'is it worth the sacrifice'. There are also subtle ways that leaders can manipulate things to better their financial position, and the attraction of better paid roles can lead people to take on jobs that they aren't called to or suited for.
- **Jealousy or envy** This affects leaders in a wide variety of ways, from jealousy over other's gifts to envy of another's position or context.